



## Bellwether Magazine

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Volume 1  
Number 24 *Summer 1988*

Article 14

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7-1-1988

# Referral Coordination Under New Direction

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## Dr. H. Palace Seitz Dies

Dr. H. Palace Seitz (V'30) died June 9, 1988. Dr. Seitz, perhaps Pennsylvania's best known veterinarian, served for more than 27 years as secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association. He began his veterinary career in 1930 when, upon graduation from Penn, he joined the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry research laboratory staff in Summerdale. He served as chief of the laboratory division from 1962 until his retirement in 1971.

Dr. Seitz left the laboratory from 1945 to 1946 to develop and operate a large poultry plant in Wrightsville. On rejoining the state staff in 1947, he did special work for the control of Newcastle disease and infectious bronchitis in poultry. Starting in 1950, he initiated the development of regional diagnostic laboratories in Doylestown, Kennett Square, Tunkhannock, University Park and Evans City. He also helped other states set up similar diagnostic laboratories.

In 1961 Dr. Seitz accepted the position of secretary-treasurer of the PVMA and devoted several hours each week to the financial and administrative affairs of the organization. Upon retirement from his state duties, he devoted full time to the continuing development of the association, working six days a week at the organization's Harrisburg office until his hospitalization in January. He retired from the position in March and was elected Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus.

Dr. Seitz was also secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides scholarships to Pennsylvania residents in veterinary colleges throughout the United States. In 1983 the Foundation established a perpetual Dr. Palace H. Seitz Lectureship Fund in his honor to provide a major speaker at the PVMA's annual continuing education convention.

Dr. Palace H. Seitz was a life member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Capital City Veterinary Medical Association, a charter member of the American Association of Avian Pathologists, past president of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation, and a member of the United States Livestock Association, World Poultry Science Association, and Phi Zeta, the honorary veterinary fraternity. He held a 32nd degree in Masonry and was past president of Rotary in Wrightsville. From 1971 to 1973 he served as chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

In 1963 the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation named him Allied Industryman of the year, and the PVMA named him 1973 Distinguished Veterinarian. The School awarded Dr. Seitz its Centennial Award of Merit in 1984.

Dr. Seitz is survived by a devoted friend, Ms. Alberta E. Shuey, and three nieces and a nephew.

## Referral Coordination Under New Direction

Carole Contel, director of nursing at VHUP, has been appointed referral coordinator as part of her new position as director of nursing and technician education at VHUP.

"Carole is ideally suited as coordinator," said Barry Stupine, associate dean and director of VHUP. "She was the ICU nurse for 12 years and we brought her into referral coordination because of her medical background. Her knowledge of procedures and her ability to understand the medical terms should enhance the feed-back process and make it easier for practitioners to obtain information on referral cases."

Ms. Contel monitors the referral cases, and, when a practitioner calls on the hotline, she can quickly check the animal's status and provide the practitioner with an update. This should eliminate the delay incurred when the staff clinician in charge of a case is not available at the time. It should also ease the pressure on clinicians as pertinent information can be provided by someone other than the clinician. Ms. Contel's role is not designed to eliminate communication between referring veterinarians and staff clinicians, rather it is designed to augment it.

Ms. Contel is also coordinator of the Harcum practicum at VHUP. Currently there are 80 students enrolled in practica at the School. The School is planning to offer continuing education programs for animal health technicians working at VHUP. "We hope to offer lectures and seminars dealing with the different specialties," said Ms. Contel. "It will provide the technicians with a broader base of information. At this point everyone here is specialized and the lectures and seminars will offer an opportunity for technicians to learn about other areas." The program will carry continuing education credits. Such credits are required if a technician wishes to maintain the state license.

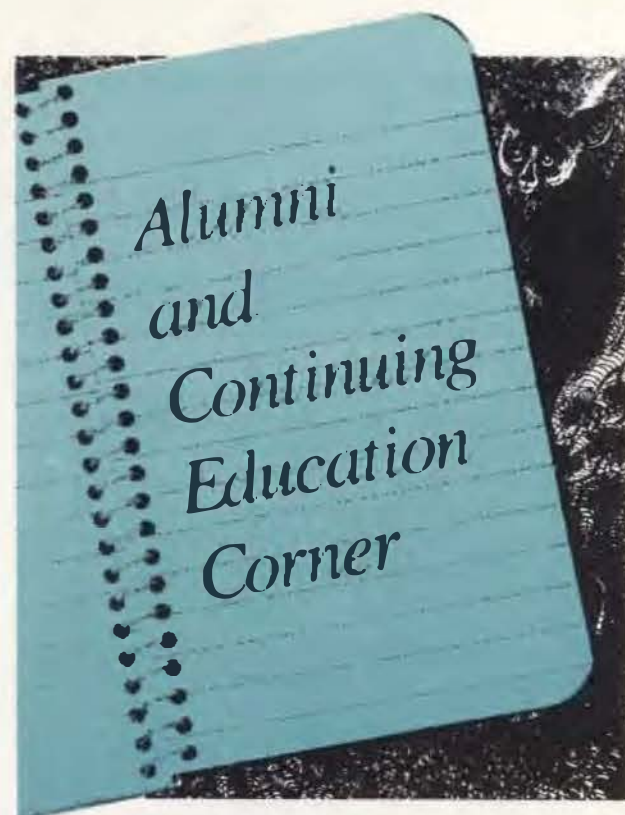
The School is also trying to develop a continuing education program for technicians working for private practitioners. "We would like to offer a day-long program," said Ms. Contel. "We are seeking input from practitioners for topics to be covered in such a program."

In addition to one-day continuing education programs, the School plans to offer a new internship program for veterinary technicians. "This will be a full-time internship geared to those who wish to change direction within the profession," said Mr. Stupine. "We will offer training in clinical care, business management, and laboratory animal science, and we will have the potential of zoo medicine/aquatic medicine as an elective area."

The length of the internship will be between six to 12 months and it will be organized around a core/elective system. Participants will receive a small stipend and housing will be available. Participants must be certified animal health technicians. "Participation in such a program can open up another whole new field for a technician," said Ms. Contel. Currently the internship animal health program is planned for VHUP only. For further information please contact Ms. Contel.

## Pet Tag Sales Benefit the School

Best Friend Pet Tags, a company based in Las Vegas, will donate \$1 for each tag sold through a veterinarian to the veterinary school of the practitioner's choice. Tag displays with order forms are placed in the veterinarian's office and his choice of school is registered with the company. When an order is received by Best Friend Pet Tags, the donation is sent to the school. A number of our alumni are participating in this program and the School has received checks. We think that this is a great way to help the School, and hope that our alumni will participate.



## 1988-1989 Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Board Members

The 1988-1989 Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board was installed on Alumni Day. The Society's mission is the advancement of veterinary education; animal and public health; promotion of the interests of the Veterinary School and the Alumni Society; and the encouragement and perpetuation of the spirit of good feeling and commonality of interests among graduates of the Veterinary School.

As representatives of the Alumni body, the members of the Executive Board welcome your comments and suggestions. Please address correspondence to Dr. Jay J. Simmons, President, c/o the Alumni Office.



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